acceptance of the report by the Government would require examination of the various recommendations by the concerned Ministries/Departments as well as States/UTs.

Backlog of Court Cases

2585. SHRI SANATAN BISI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Executive is responsible for backlog of cour cases; and

(b) if so, what are the other reasons?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The pendency of cases in Courts is due to various complex factors including increased institution of cases, rise in population, inadequate judge strength, granting of adjournments, radical change in the pattern of litigation, multifarious litigation, long arguments and lawyers' strike etc.

Multi-crore scam in photo identity card scheme

2586. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-crore scam in photo identity card scheme has been pointed out by the audit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where the scheme has been completed?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI): (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its Report for the year 1997 (March) Vol. III has made certain observations about under-utilisation of funds alloted by the Central Government for implementation of the scheme of electors photo identity cards, excess/avoidable expenditure in some States due to non-observance of instructions issued by the Election Commission of India etc.

(c) The scheme of issue of Photo Identity Cards is an on-going scheme. A Statement giving the status of the scheme in various States and Union Territories is laid on the Table of the House. [*Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question 2578 (b) and (c)].*

Implementation of Lower Damodar Drainage Scheme

2587. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Lower Damodar Drainage Scheme, initially a part of the Damodar Valley Project was never implemented by West Bengal Government and this is the main cause of flood in Hoogly and Howrah districts;

(b) whether it is also a fact that four more dams planned in the second phase at Balpahari, Aiyar, Bokaro and Berma in Bihar are still waiting to come up since the inception of DVC;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any proposal exists with Government regarding completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The primary consideration in the flood control aspect of the DVC dams was to provide adequate protection to left flood embankment alongwith Damodar river by restricting the flood at Durgapur barrage to 2,50,000 cusecs. The drainage scheme was meant to ensure safe discharge of 2,50,000 cusecs in Lower Damodar channels. The implementation of the Lower Damodar Drainage Scheme rests with the Government of West Bengal.